

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

March 4, 2013
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald
David Flynn
Eric Gebhart, Chair
Taylor Gregg
Ric Nelson
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Teresa Holt, Executive Director

Guests:

Jesse Hill

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 12:04 p.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

Kathy Fitzgerald read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

Amy Simpson announced that she has been awarded a sabbatical from the Rasmuson Foundation, so she gets to take four months off starting in July.

Teresa Holt announced that Duane Mayes said that the Governor wants to sign House Bill 88 at the Governor's Council meeting in May.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Teresa Holt requested that the agenda be amended to add the effects of sequestration under New Business. Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETINGS

Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 14th and February 11th, 2013 meetings. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt announced that Representative Millet has been appointed as the Council's legislative liaison.

Teresa stated that the Council wrote letters of support last week for the Suicide Prevention Council and for SB 36, the vulnerable adults alert system.

OLD BUSINESS

Key Campaign Debrief

Kathy Fitzgerald commented that Steve Lesko just gave a very thorough debrief in the DD Committee meeting before this meeting. Kathy noted that Kaylssa did a great job gathering information, and the Council helped make Key a success. Kathy noted that they held a follow-up teleconference on Friday to answer the questions posed by legislators, and Clark Gruening would contact the offices that had questions.

Medicaid Letter Approval

Ric Nelson presented, for the Executive Committee's approval, the letter written by the Medicaid Reform Ad Hoc Committee to the commissioner. Ric and Teresa Holt summarized the letter, which suggests potential cost-saving measures in six different areas of Medicaid spending. The committee discussed one sentence that someone suggested to include. Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the letter with the one amendment. The motion **PASSED**. Ric Nelson stated that they will make that revision and then send the letter to Commissioner Streur.

Legislative Update

Teresa Holt discussed bills of interest to the Council and the Governor's budget. Teresa explained where each bill was in the legislative process, and mentioned a couple of new bills: HB 134, which would continue providing medisets, or medications pre-packaged as prescribed for users' convenience and to help avoid errors; and HB 147, which extends the reporting date for the Comprehensive Autism Early Diagnosis and Treatment Task Force until next year.

Teresa Holt stated that the House HSS Finance Committee closed out last Friday, and the budget includes an \$8.3 million cut to Behavioral Health, and a reduction to therapeutic courts, which send eligible people to treatment instead of to jail. Teresa noted that the Complex Behavior Collaborative also needs people to testify in its support or it might not be funded. Teresa gave the times for public testimony scheduled from different regions of the state. Teresa noted that there are many cuts in

many areas, so there will be a lot of people trying to testify. Teresa hopes that the Council can coordinate to have one person speak for the CBC at each session of testimony.

NEW BUSINESS

Transition Committee Approval

Teresa Holt stated that the Transition Committee is intended to help her transition into her role as executive director, and would be comprised of Banarsi Lal, Kathy Fitzgerald, Ric Nelson, and Eric Gebhart. Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the Transition Committee. The motion **PASSED**.

Reorganization of Council Committees

Teresa Holt stated that the federal government now is requiring the Governor's Council to report on eight different categories: early intervention, education, employment, transportation, community support, advocacy and leadership, health, and housing. Teresa explained that whereas in the past the Council just had to say what they did, now they are required to give specific objectives with time frames for meeting them.

Teresa proposed creating six committees to cover these areas:

- Early Intervention
- Education, which would include SESA
- Employment and Transportation
- Community Support
- Advocacy and Leadership
- Health and Housing

Teresa suggests still having the Executive Committee, but abolishing the Legislative Committee. Instead, each committee would be responsible for tracking legislation in their field. Advocacy and Leadership could go under the Developmental Disabilities Committee, and each committee could follow rural services instead of having a Rural Ad Hoc Committee. Teresa asked committee members to think about it.

Effects of Sequestration

Teresa Holt stated that sequestration went into effect on Friday at midnight, and she discussed some of the cuts that will probably take place, but no one knows yet what is actually going to happen. Teresa said that by the next Executive Committee meeting she should have more details, and they may have to reexamine the budget.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Eric Gebhart reported that he was in Juneau to meet with legislators, and the news from the House Education Budget Subcommittee wasn't good. Eric stated that the SESA bill seems to be viewed positively, but no one will commit until the final revenue projections come out, around mid-month.

Eric Gebhart added that the commissioner announced the appointment of Sue Hull of Fairbanks to the State Board of Education. Eric remarked that since Sue is taking Geri Benshoof's place on the state school board, maybe she could also take Geri's place on the Council.

Executive Director's Report

Teresa Holt reported that she met with Commissioner Streur during Key Campaign, and he asked to be invited to each of the Council meetings, so she will follow up on that.

Teresa stated that the planner position, her old position, is open and they hope to hire someone soon. Teresa added that she has been meeting with each of the staff to ask them what they think has been working and what hasn't been working; if there is anything that they need that they don't have; anything they want to change about how things are done, and so on. Teresa said that she will share their list of ideas when it's done.

Teresa reported on a few upcoming events:

- The Alaska Integrated Employment Grant people are meeting tomorrow morning, and then the stakeholder group meets half of Tuesday and half of Wednesday.
- A volunteer will be in the office updating the Where to Turn book, which is the Council's most requested document.
- Other boards have asked the Council to participate in a Legislative Lunch and Learn to introduce themselves to legislative aides and legislators. Teresa noted that it was a little late in the session, and stated that she had requested that they do it earlier next session; still, she is going to participate because most other boards are.

Teresa stated that the biggest news is that the PPR is due on March 15th, and they have been working hard to pull that together.

Committee Reports

DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD Committee met today, and the next DD Committee meeting plans to focus on FASD. FASD is sometimes treated as a mental health issue, and Kathy stated that it would be another area of advocacy to get FASD recognized as an eligible DD diagnosis, where it seems to fit functionally.

Early Intervention Committee

Amy Simpson reported that the state policies for early intervention have been posted for comment, and the EIC will be working to review those policies and provide comment by March 28th.

Legislative Committee

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee will meet tomorrow from 1 to 2:30. They will be talking about the current status of bills of

interest to the Council. David added that he hopes the Council can send out some letters of recognition to legislators to acknowledge the new ones and congratulate the returning ones, and to follow up on the visits from January.

Education Committee

Teresa Holt reported that Christie Reinhardt would be flying to Juneau for the State Board of Education meeting and comment on Alaska's waiver application for No Child Left Behind. Teresa stated that the Education Committee has decided to look at the high school exit exam and options over the next year and develop recommendations.

Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee

Teresa Holt reported that there is nothing new since last month.

Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee

Ric Nelson stated that they finished the letter and got it approved, so they are going to make the one change and send it off. Eric Gebhart commented that he was impressed with the letter, and he thought that was just the kind of proactive ideas the commissioner was looking for.

Ad Hoc Committee on Autism

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that they are in the process of pulling the committee back together so they can fulfill the duty of considering how to make the autism insurance bill work.

Employment Activities

Teresa reported that Rich Sanders did a presentation to the Trust about the Disability Employment Initiative grant, which is to end in October. The Trust agreed to fund it from October until June and then another year, but it would have to be approved in the budget amendment process, so it's not a sure thing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Full Lives Conference, Anchorage, April 11 and 12
- Disability Policy Seminar, Washington, D.C., April 14 – 17
- Governor's Council meeting, Anchorage, May 7 – 9

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 1st, from noon to 1:30.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.